



Great Lakes Shooting Sports Association

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GLSSA believes that the intention of HB 4694 is to insure government employees the option of carrying a concealed pistol for their own protection, particularly while in dangerous neighborhoods and/or situations.

While this is very good and honorable intent, we have some concerns with this legislation. While GLSSA supports the right of all citizens to lawfully keep and bear firearms, in a free state the right to keep and bear has a necessary opposite side: the right to have nothing to do with guns. Right now, private property owners can deny anyone, including the police, entry to their property while armed. Law Enforcement Officers with a search warrant, arrest warrant, or other probable cause combined with exigent circumstances are the only exceptions.

A perspective that should be considered is from the administrator/manager position (the Executive Branch of Government). Would this bill increase liability costs for the state? Will the administration have to qualify their inspectors to carry while "on duty"? If a police agency can prohibit their employee from carrying a concealed pistol because of increased insurance premiums or loss or reduction of insurance coverage, how can we justify this exception for inspectors?

While I may disagree with an absolutely no guns policy, I would also hesitate to impose such policy constraints on any administrator who has to manage employees while "on duty".

Perhaps more time to consider other possibilities to remedy some of the unsafe situations some inspectors are put in, would be appropriate.